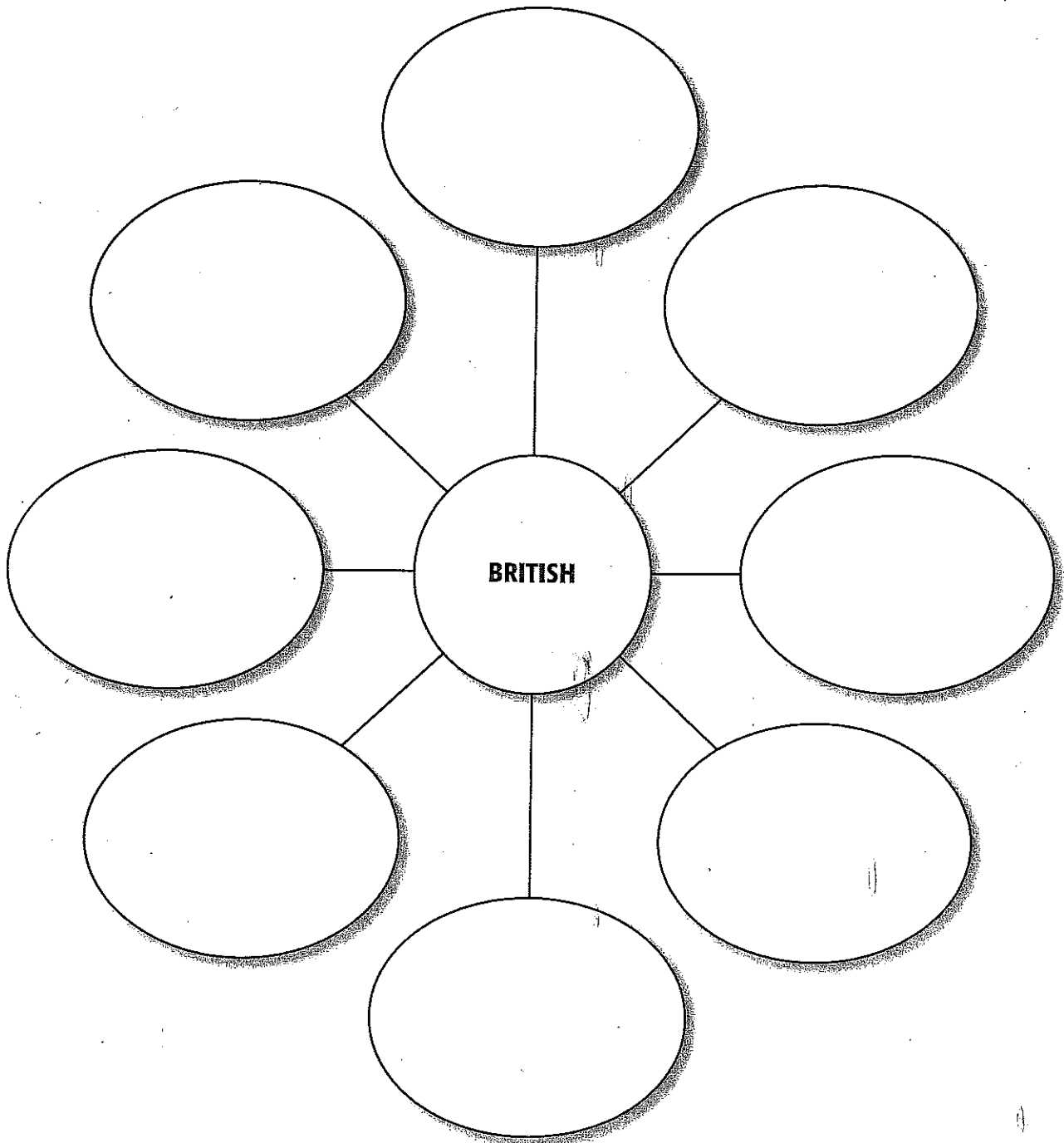


Active READING GUIDE

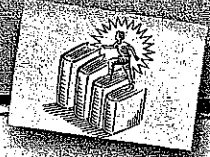


from ***The Crisis, No. 1*** by Thomas Paine (page 155)

Throughout the excerpt from *The Crisis, No. 1*, Paine uses extremely negative language to characterize the British and to rally the colonists against England. As you read the excerpt, look closely at the language Paine uses to describe the British. Complete the word web below with as many of these words as you can find.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS



from *The Crisis*, No. 1 by Thomas Paine (page 155)

Gender References

In *The Crisis*, No. 1, Thomas Paine uses the subject pronoun *he* in three ways:

- for people in general
- for males only
- with a capital H to refer to God

Exercise Reread the selection. Pay attention to Thomas Paine’s use of pronouns. Work with a partner to decide to whom the author is referring each time he uses a subject pronoun. Look for examples of as many different subject pronouns as possible. Use the chart below to organize your work.

To Whom Is Paine Referring?

[illegible]

Next, use your chart as you talk about what you found. Did you find examples of all three uses of the subject pronoun *he*? Is Paine's use of these pronouns different from the way we use them today?

LITERARY ELEMENTS TRANSPARENCY 15

FOR USE WITH LITERARY ELEMENTS: HYPERBOLE (PAGE 158)

Hyperbole is exaggeration, sometimes used in political writing to arouse the audience's emotions.

In each example of hyperbole below, to whom is Thomas Paine trying to appeal, and what effect does he want to have?

1. **Britain has trembled like an ague at the report of a French fleet.**

2. **The blood of his children will curse his cowardice who shrinks back at a time when a little might have saved the whole.**

Think of another selection you have read and identify examples of hyperbole.

from *The Crisis, No. 1*

Interacting with Text

Recognizing Author's Purpose

Author's purpose refers to an author's reason for writing. Authors write to entertain, inform, explain, persuade, or describe, or for a combination of purposes.

EXERCISE A. Read the following passage about Americans' role in the struggle against the British in the selection from *The Crisis, No. 1*. Think about how the author's purpose affected his choice of style, diction, and content.

Let it be told to the future world that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive, that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet and to repulse it. Say not that thousands are gone—turn out your tens of thousands; throw not the burden of the day upon Providence, but "*show your faith by your works*," that God may bless you. It

matters not where you live, or what rank of life you hold, the evil or the blessing will reach you all. The far and the near, the home counties and the back, the rich and poor, will suffer or rejoice alike. The heart that feels not now is dead; the blood of his children will curse his cowardice who shrinks back at a time when a little might have saved the whole, and made *them* happy.

EXERCISE B. Read the following questions. For each question, find the text in the passage that will help you answer it. Underline the text. Then use the text you have marked to help you answer the questions on the lines provided.

1. Does Thomas Paine's language appeal to the audience's intellect, emotions, or sense of humor? _____
2. What two words in the first sentence have positive connotations? _____

3. What phrase in the first sentence creates a negative mood? _____

4. According to Paine, what role should God and religion play in people's behavior in this situation? _____

5. What is Thomas Paine's overall purpose in the passage? _____
